

TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

26379 Fremont Road
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022
Phone: (650) 941-7222
www.losaltoshills.ca.gov



Maximum Floor Area and Maximum Development Area

Revised-7/31/13

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WORKSHEET # 1

MAXIMUM DEVELOPMENT AREA AND MAXIMUM FLOOR AREA CALCULATIONS

1. CALCULATION OF AVERAGE SLOPE

- A. Minimum contour interval is 5 feet when the average slope exceeds 10 %; 2 feet when the average slope is less than 10%.
- B. Measure the total length of contours within the net area of the lot. The net area is the gross area less the vehicle access easements or rights of way. (Exception: when an access easement is exclusively for emergency access, it is not deducted from the gross lot area.)
- C. Calculate the average slope of the lot using the following formula:

$$S = \frac{(0.0023) (I) (L)}{An}$$

Where:

I	=	contour interval in feet
L	=	total contour length of lot in feet (within net area); multiply total length in inches by map scale
An	=	net area of lot in acres
S	=	average lot slope in percent

Calculate S to the nearest 0.1 %

2. CALCULATION OF LOT UNIT FACTOR (LUF)

Calculate the Lot Unit Factor (LUF) for the lot using one of the following formulas:

- For lots with S equal to 10% or less: $LUF = An$
- For lots with S between 10% and 55%: $LUF = (An)[1 - 0.02143(S - 10)]$
- For lots with S greater than 55%, use 55% for all areas with slopes 55% or greater. Contact the Planning Department for further information.
- If LUF is **equal to or less than 0.50**, proceed to EXCEPTIONS (#5)

3. CALCULATION OF MAXIMUM FLOOR AREA (MFA) ALLOWED

Calculate the maximum allowable floor area (MFA) using one of the following formulas:

- A. for lots with S equal to 10% or less

$$\text{MFA} = \text{LUF} \times 6,000 \text{ square feet}$$

- B. for lots with S greater than 10% and less than 30%

$$\text{MFA} = \text{LUF} [6,000 - 50(S - 10)] \text{ square feet}$$

- C. for lots with S equal to or greater than 30%

$$\text{MFA} = \text{LUF} \times 5,000 \text{ square feet}$$

4. CALCULATION OF MAXIMUM DEVELOPMENT AREA (MDA) ALLOWED

Calculate the maximum allowable development area (MDA) using one of the following formulas:

- A. for lots with S equal to 10% or less

$$\text{MDA} = \text{LUF} \times 15,000 \text{ square feet}$$

- B. for lots with S greater than 10% and less than 30%

$$\text{MDA} = \text{LUF} [15,000 - 375(S - 10)] \text{ square feet}$$

- C. for lots with S equal to or greater than 30%

$$\text{MDA} = \text{LUF} \times 7,500 \text{ square feet}$$

5. EXCEPTIONS

If the LUF is **equal to or less than 0.50**, the following applies to the lot:

Minimum MDA - The allowable development area of any parcel or lot shall not be reduced to less than 7,500 square feet, except in the case of parcels or lots that have a Lot Unit Factor of 0.50 or less. *Parcels or lots which have a Lot Unit Factor of .50 or less require a Conditional Development Permit and allowable development area may be restricted below 7,500 square feet as a condition of the permit.* Maximum development area for lots that require a Conditional Development Permit shall be established as the maximum floor area allowed by Section 10-1.503(c) plus 2,100 square feet. The Site Development Authority may approve development area of up to a total of 4,500 square feet for any lot or parcel without requiring a variance, so long as the findings for a Conditional Development Permit are made.

Minimum MFA - The allowable floor area on any parcel or lot shall not be reduced to less than 5,000 square feet, except as set forth in Section 10-1.503(e) or except in the case of parcels or lots which have a Lot Unit Factor of 0.50 or less. *Parcels or lots which have a Lot Unit Factor of .50 or less require a Conditional Development Permit and allowable floor area may be restricted below 5,000 square feet as a condition of the permit.* Maximum floor area for lots that require a Conditional Development Permit shall be established as the ratio of the Lot Unit Factor (LUF) for the lot divided by 0.50 times 5,000 square feet. The Site Development Authority may approve floor area of up to 2,500 square feet for any lot without requiring a variance, so long as the findings for a Conditional Development Permit are made.

TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

26379 Fremont Road • Los Altos Hills, California 94022 • (650) 941-7222 • FAX (650) 941-3160

WORKSHEET #1

CALCULATION OF AVERAGE SLOPE, LOT UNIT FACTOR
MAXIMUM DEVELOPMENT AREA, AND MAXIMUM FLOOR AREA

• **TURN IN WITH YOUR APPLICATION** •

PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME	
PROPERTY ADDRESS	
CALCULATED BY	DATE

1. CALCULATION OF AVERAGE SLOPE

A. CONTOUR LENGTH WITHIN NET AREA OF LOT (An)

CONTOUR	LENGTH (INCHES)	CONTOUR	LENGTH (INCHES)	CONTOUR	LENGTH (INCHES)	CONTOUR	LENGTH (INCHES)
TOTAL							

Convert inches to feet (multiply by map scale) = (L) = _____ feet

B. AVERAGE SLOPE WITHIN NET AREA OF LOT

$S = \frac{(0.0023) (I) (L)}{A_n}$	I = contour interval in feet	L = total length of contours in feet	An = net acreage of lot nearest .001
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$$S = \frac{(0.0023) (\quad) (\quad)}{(\quad)} = \quad \text{nearest } 0.1\%$$

2. CALCULATION OF LOT UNIT FACTOR (LUF)

$$LUF = (A_n) \{ 1 - [0.02143(S - 10)] \} = \quad \text{nearest } .001$$

- ✓ If the average slope is less than 10%, the LUF for the lot is equal to the net area.
- ✓ If the LUF is **equal to 0.50 or less**, you will need a **Conditional Development Permit**. Make an appointment with the Planning Director for further information.

WORKSHEET #1
(continued)

3. CALCULATION OF MAXIMUM DEVELOPMENT AREA (MDA)

- A. for S equal to or less than 10%
MDA = (LUF) (15,000) = _____ square feet*
- B. for S greater than 10% and less than 30%
MDA = (LUF) [15,000 - 375(S - 10)] = _____ square feet*
- C. for S equal to or greater than 30%
MDA = (LUF) (7,500) = _____ square feet*

* If the MDA is less than 7,500 square feet (and the LUF is greater than 0.50), use 7,500 square feet for your MDA

4. CALCULATION OF MAXIMUM FLOOR AREA (MFA)

- A. for S equal to or less than 10%
MFA = (LUF) (6,000) = _____ square feet**
- B. for S greater than 10% and less than 30%
MFA = (LUF) [6,000 - 50(S - 10)] = _____ square feet**
- C. for S equal to or greater than 30%
MFA = (LUF) (5,000) = _____ square feet**

** If the MFA is less than 5,000 square feet (and the LUF is greater than 0.50) use 5,000 square feet for your MFA.

NOTE: The MDA and MFA are maximums allowed by the Town Municipal Code. The City Council or the Planning Commission may further limit development area or floor area due to site specific constraints or site visibility (see "Site Development Policy Statement").

TOWN USE ONLY	CHECKED BY	DATE
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR WORKSHEET # 2

EXISTING AND PROPOSED FLOOR AREA AND DEVELOPMENT AREA

1. FLOOR AREA

- A. Floor area shall be defined as the gross horizontal area of the several floors of all buildings, including garage and carport spaces, measured to the outside of exterior walls.
- B. Floor area is counted twice when the vertical distance between the upper surface of the floor and the upper surface of the floor or the underside of the roof directly above it, is greater than seventeen (17) feet.
- C. The portion of the attics and similar areas are considered floor area when the distance between the upper surface of the attic floor and the underside of the roof above it is seven (7) feet or more. For purposes of this definition, all attic space is considered to have floor surfaces.
- D. Area meeting the definition of a basement is exempted from floor area.

2. BASEMENT

- A. Basement shall mean a floor level directly under a building which is wholly underground and at least 75% of its perimeter length and having its entire height measured from its floor to its ceiling below the adjoining natural or finished grade, whichever is lower.
- B. Basements, including cellars and bunkers, which are not located within the footprint of the building above, may be permitted by the Planning Commission when it finds that such structures do not encroach in setbacks, are a minimum of 18 inches below natural grade, are wholly underground except for required exiting, lighting and ventilation and are counted as development area except when placed under a surface already counted as development area.

3. DEVELOPMENT AREA

Development area is measured on a horizontal plane and includes the following:

- A. Total Floor Area (as defined above)
- B. The total area of land covered by structures other than those counted as floor area, such as parking areas, patios, decks, walkways, swimming pools, and tennis courts, together with other surfaces comprised of artificially emplaced building materials such as paving, masonry, stone or wood.
- C. The first one hundred (100) feet of driveway closest to the primary dwelling, as measured along the centerline.

D. That portion of a driveway exceeding fourteen (14) feet in width (or as required by the Fire Department) which is located beyond the area described in C.

E. Where there is a common driveway in a driveway easement or a panhandle and the driveway, or a portion of the driveway, serves more than one residence, according to regulations stated in C and D above, the amount of driveway area shall be proportioned to the residences based upon use of the driveway.

Note: Some materials may be given partial exemption towards MDA. Refer to the Town's Development Area Policy and make an appointment with a Planner to discuss material selection.

4. NET AREA

"Net area" shall mean the gross area of any parcel or lot of land, less panhandles and all public and private easements for vehicular access within the parcel or lot, excluding easements primarily for emergency access. Notwithstanding the foregoing, for purposes of determining Lot Unit Factor (LUF), "net area" shall only exclude the paved portions of panhandles and the paved portions of all public and private easements for vehicular access.

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WORKSHEET #2

EXISTING AND PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA AND FLOOR AREA

• TURN IN WITH YOUR APPLICATION •

PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME	
PROPERTY ADDRESS	
CALCULATED BY	DATE

1. <u>DEVELOPMENT AREA</u>	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>DA Credit</u>	<u>Total</u>
A. House and Garage (from part 2.A)	_____	_____	_____	_____
B. Decking	_____	_____	_____	_____
C. Driveway and Parking	_____	_____	_____	_____
D. Patios and Walkways	_____	_____	_____	_____
E. Tennis Court	_____	_____	_____	_____
F. Pool and Pool Decking	_____	_____	_____	_____
G. Accessory Building (from part 2.B)	_____	_____	_____	_____
H. Solar Panels (ground mounted)	_____	_____	_____	_____
I. Any Other Coverage	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total	_____	_____	_____	_____

Roof Mounted Solar Bonus
(LAHMC Section 10-1.502)

yes _____

No _____

SF _____

Maximum Development Area-MDA (from worksheet #1)

Maximum Development Area w/ Solar Credit

2. <u>FLOOR AREA</u>	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Total</u>
A. HOUSE AND GARAGE			
a. First Floor	_____	_____	_____
b. Second Floor	_____	_____	_____
c. Attic	_____	_____	_____
d. Basement	_____	_____	_____
e. Garage	_____	_____	_____
f. Area over 17'	_____	_____	_____
B. ACCESSORY BUILDINGS			
a. First Floor	_____	_____	_____
b. Second Floor	_____	_____	_____
c. Attic	_____	_____	_____
d. Basement	_____	_____	_____
Total	_____	_____	_____

Maximum Floor Area-MFA (from worksheet #1)

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